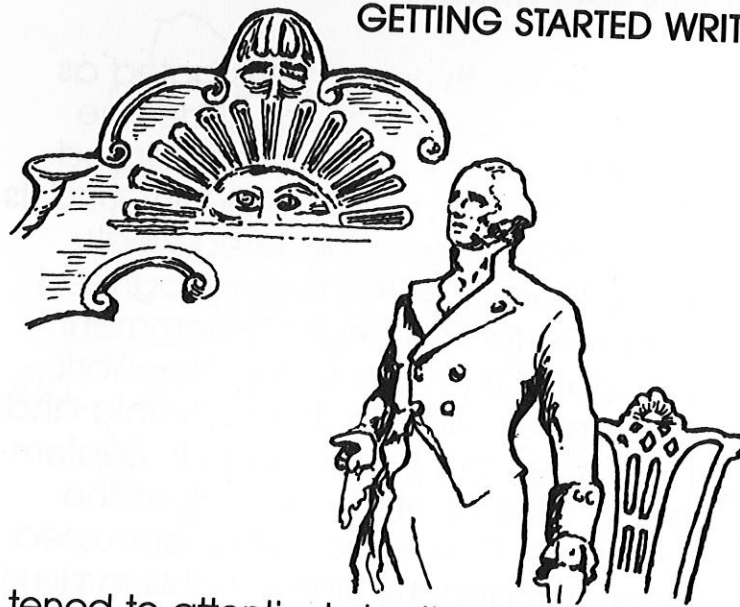


GETTING STARTED WRITING THE CONSTITUTION



George Washington had won the respect of the delegates as commander of the Revolutionary War Army and was elected President of the Constitutional Convention at its opening on May 25th in Pennsylvania's State House. As President Washington did not make many contributions, but he kept the meetings orderly and running as smoothly as possible considering the many different points of view. Any remarks Washington did make were listened to attentively by the delegates.

Before the convention got underway, a rules committee organized the procedures the convention would follow. Each state was given one vote. If there were more than one representative from a state, the delegates would have to decide how to cast their one vote. What happened at the meetings was to be kept secret until the entire Constitution could be presented to the public. Any delegate could voice an opinion. A vote cast one way could be changed if the delegates saw it was necessary as they proceeded.

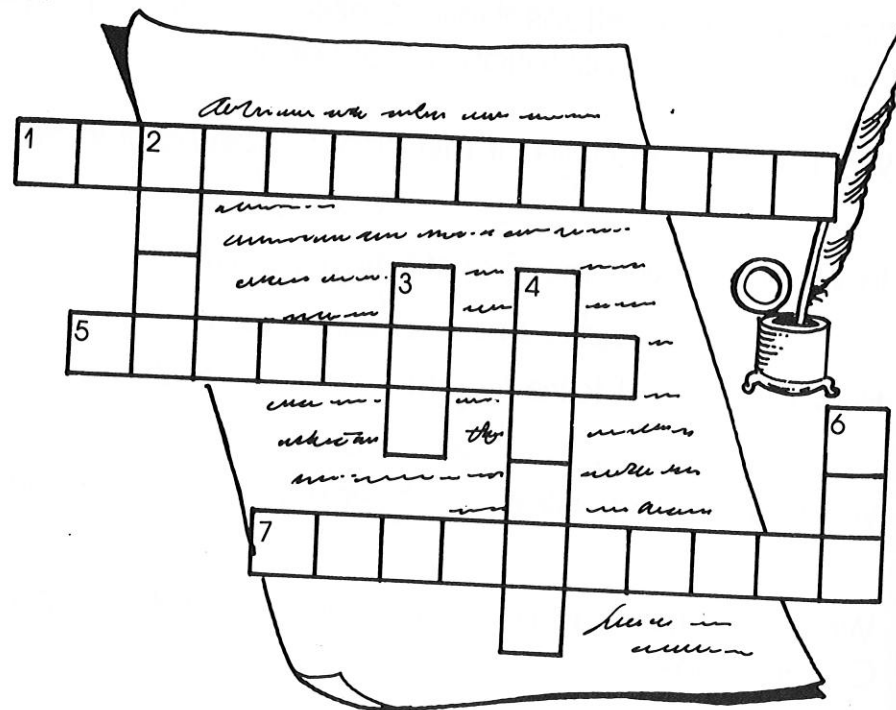
Complete the crossword puzzle.

Across

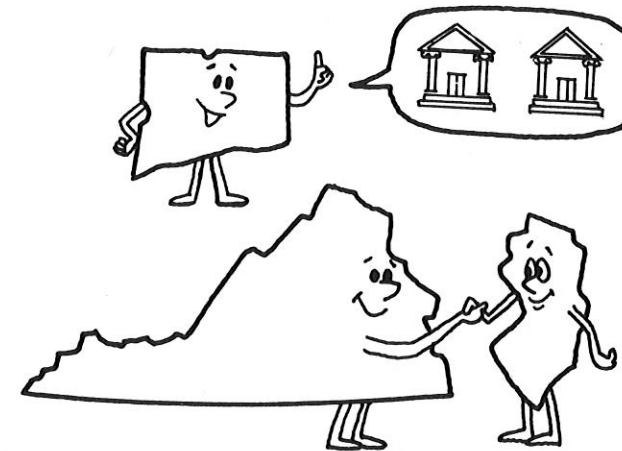
1. War Washington commanded army
5. Elected Washington President of convention
7. Where convention took place

Down

2. Means by which different laws settled
3. Month convention began
4. Way in which meetings held
6. Number of votes allowed per state



THE GREAT COMPROMISE



There were several areas of disagreement. The greatest area was in the matter of how many representatives from each state should be in the legislature. The larger states thought representation should be determined by its population. This was called the Virginia Plan. The states with smaller populations were not in favor of such a plan. They wanted all states to have an equal number of representatives.

Their plan was called the New Jersey Plan. Roger Sherman of Connecticut proposed a two house legislature. One, the Senate, would have an equal number of representatives. The other, the House of Representatives, would have a representative for every 30,000 residents. This plan satisfied the large and small states and became known as the Great Compromise.

Circle the answers in the puzzle and write them after each question. The letters that remain uncircled in the puzzle will spell first, the name of Virginia's governor and the name of the man who presented the Virginia Plan, and second, the man who presented the New Jersey Plan.

Which states favored the New Jersey Plan? _____

Representation based on population was which plan? _____

What was the first name of the man proposing the Great Compromise? _____

What was his last name? _____

Which plan suggested equal representation? _____

Which legislative body has an equal number of representatives? _____

Which states favored the Virginia Plan? _____

Which man proposed the Virginia Plan? _____

Which man proposed the New Jersey Plan? _____

